

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A reel seat for a fishing rod, that includes a fishing rod body, comprising:

an oblong pipe-shaped body through which the fishing rod body passes, the oblong pipe-shaped body defining a circumferential surface with a top portion and a lower portion;

a reel foot placing surface formed on the top portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body that receives a reel foot;

a movable front hood and a fixed rear hood, that attach the reel foot to the reel foot placing surface;

a trigger protruding from the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping substantially toward a downward and backward direction relative to a rear end of the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon, wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body; and

a rear body extending along the same axis as the fishing rod;

wherein a tip portion of an area of the front surface of the trigger on which a user's fingers can be placed is positioned behind a portion immediately below the highest position of an opening portion of the fixed rear hood.

2. (Original) The reel seat for the fishing rod as set forth in claim 1,

wherein an inclination angle of the front surface of the trigger with respect to a direction perpendicular to a center axis of the fishing rod body, is in a range of about 25° to about 55°.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The reel seat for the fishing rod as set forth in claim 1, wherein a sliding prevention protrusion protrudes from a tip of the front surface of the trigger.

5. (Currently Amended) A fishing rod, comprising:
a fishing rod body, on which line guides are mounted;
a reel seat;
a handle that extends backward from a position of the reel seat; and
a trigger protruding from a position opposite to a reel foot placing surface at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping substantially downward and backward relative to a rear end of a lower portion of the reel seat and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon, wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body; and

a rear body extending along the same axis as the fishing rod;

wherein a tip portion of an area of the front surface of the trigger on which a user's fingers can be placed is positioned behind a portion immediately below the highest position of an opening portion of ~~the~~ fixed rear hood that attaches a reel foot to the reel foot placing surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of gripping a fishing rod which comprises a fishing rod body, on which line guides are mounted, a reel seat, a handle that extends backward from a position of the reel seat, and a trigger protruding from a position opposite to

a reel foot placing surface at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping downward and backward and having a length such that at least two of a user's fingers can be placed thereon wherein a tip portion of an area of the front surface of the trigger on which a user's fingers can be placed is positioned behind a portion immediately below the highest position of an opening portion of a fixed rear hood that attaches a reel foot to the reel foot placing surface, the method comprising the step of:

placing at least two fingers on the front surface of the trigger.